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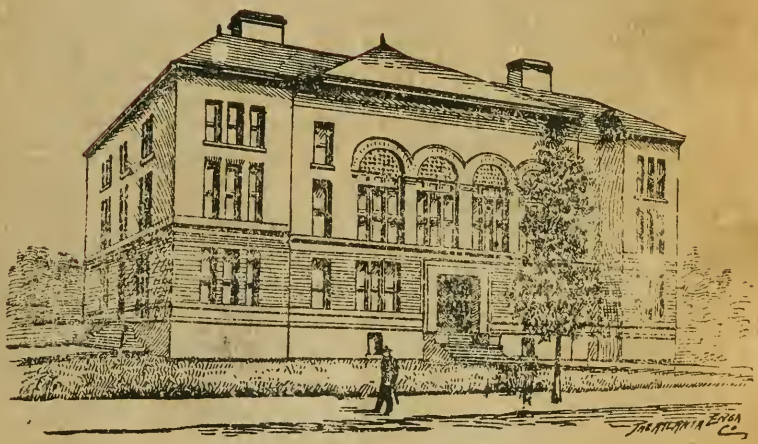

WAYCROSS and WARE COUNTY,

GEORGIA.

PERHAM & SON,
PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS.

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FOR

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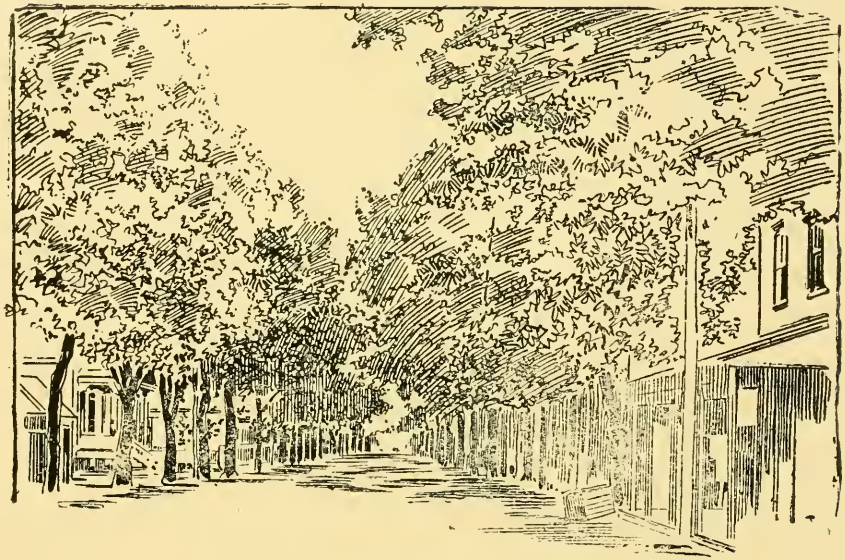


CHURCH STREET.

W.O.W. 16 Oct. 1902

WAYCROSS AND WARE COUNTY.

A Short History and Description of the Magic City of the Wiregrass Region and of Ware County.

Waycross, the gem of South Georgia, is located in the northern part of Ware county. Ware is comparatively a new county, having been formed in 1825 from the immense domain of Appling which once included the five adjoining counties and comprised the area of a small state.

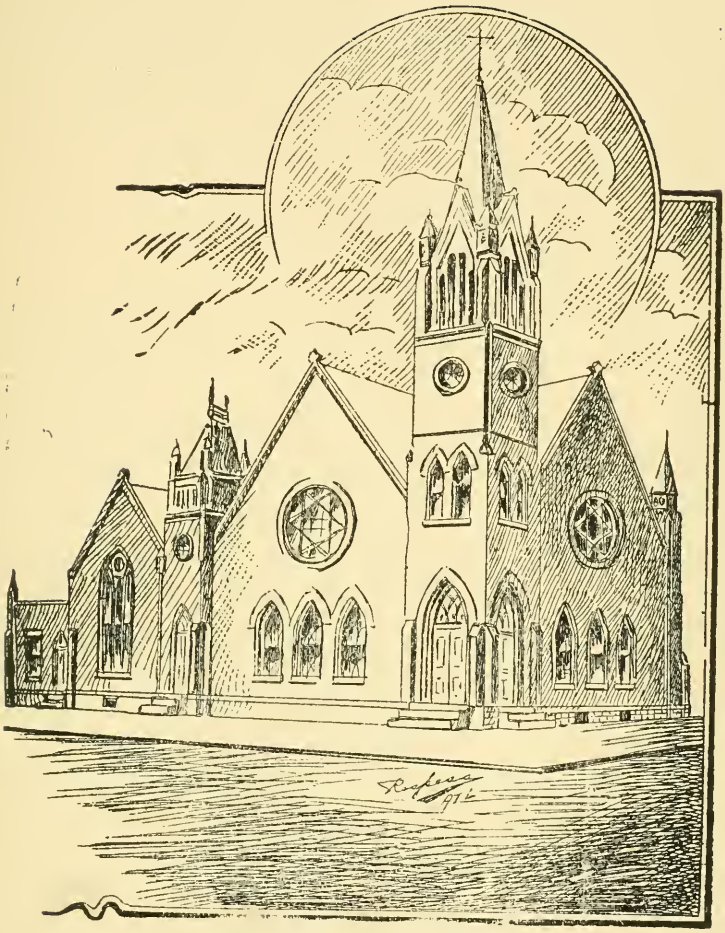
A portion of the Okefenokee Swamp extends over the Florida line into the southern border of Ware county. It was upon the islands of this swamp that the Indians fortified themselves so long during the Seminole War. It was a mystery to the army how they maintained themselves until an entrance to the "cow house," an elevated fertile island, was discovered by the scouts of Gen. Floyd's army. Through this opening they had driven great numbers of the small black cattle, that were found so numerous in South Georgia, when settled by the whites.

It is said the word "Cracker" originated from the use of the long whips used by the early settlers in driving these herds. The popping of the whip on every side to keep the drove from scattering, gave the term to the whip and afterward to the driver, and so we have the word "Cracker," so commonly applied to the rustic population of the South.

A ridge runs through the county upon which the town of Waycross is located. All streams to the east of it flow into the Atlantic, and those west into the Gulf of Mexico. Thirty years ago immense forests of yellow pine almost covered the entire county, except near the water courses where other varieties of trees were abundant. Saw mills and turpentine farms have given employment to thousands and brought into this section considerable wealth. Thus it is that large bodies of land have been denuded of the best timber, and the soil being fertile and easily cultivated, agricultural interests have developed greatly in the past five years.

This soil is the home of the watermelon, the grape and pear; nuts, peaches, sweet and Irish potatoes and garden vegetables of every kind. Sugar cane, highland rice and oats yield fine crops.

The past winter was unprecedented in the last thirty years. The cold killed the first planting of oats, but farmers who replanted the first week in March gathered the last week in May an abundant harvest. Cotton, both long and short, produce well, and those who planted wheat this year succeeded finely, although the latter is a crop that has not been extensively cultivated.



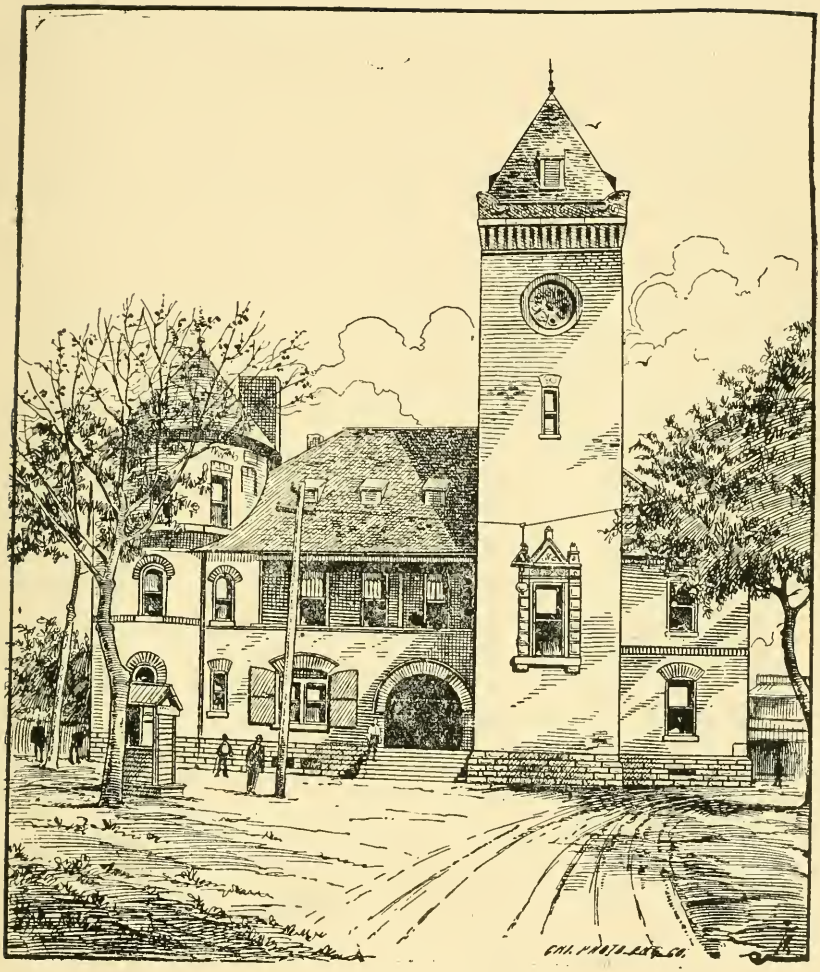
NEW METHODIST CHURCH.

Although the saw mills and turpentine farms are growing fewer each year, there is still in this county a body of 10,000 acres, the finest uncut timber of immense size to be found in the south. Among its trees the curly pine in great numbers are found, and through it runs the historic stream of Kettle Creek, where the Wildes family was massacred in 1838 by the Indians.

Unimproved farming lands can be bought from one to ten dollars per acre.

The Plant System of Railway centres at Waycross, giving five lines running out from the town to Jacksonville, Tampa, Savannah, Brunswick and Albany. It is 96 miles to Savannah, 60 to Brunswick and 76 to Jacksonville, and the roads connect at these ports with Foreign and Coastwise Atlantic Steamship lines. At Tampa with the Plant line of ships to Cuba and the Gulf ports, and through Albany and Bainbridge with the North and West. A new road, the Waycross Air Line, from St. Mary's to Cordele and Hazelhurst connecting with the Southern Railroad System, is partly built, and will probably be completed the coming year. The facilities for freights in every direction is unsurpassed, and the passenger service of the Plant Line is suberb The villages of Waresboro, Manor and Glenmore in this county have churches, schools and many pleasant homes. There are other settlements at mill sites, where small communities exist, and churches and schoools throughout the county.

Waycross, the county site and railroad centre, is destined to become the metropolis of South Georgia. In 1870



WARE COUNTY'S COURT HOUSE.

it was a railway crossing, with warehouse, old saw mill, a few small cottages and not over fifty inhabitants. With the building of the Short Line into Jacksonville and the renewal of business life in the South, gradually began the development of this section, and in 1880 Waycross numbered 628.

In 1882 a prohibition contest began and a license of $20,000 was established by legislation and went into effect in 1883.

In 1890 the population had increased to 3,338 and the taxable value of county property five times. The license was increased in 1892 to $30.000, and Waycross is an object lesson, showing that towns can progress and become permanent without the sale of liquors, as the population has been steadily growing since that date.

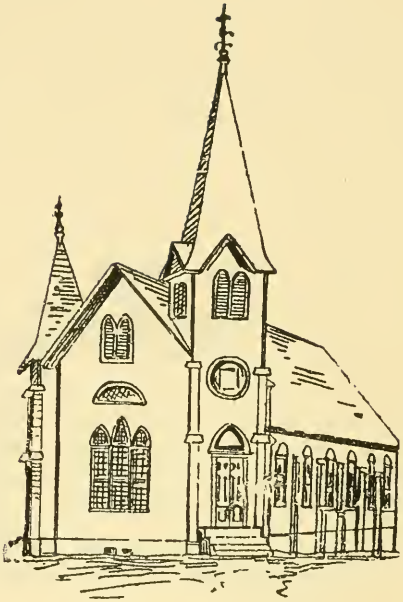
The system of graded schools is excellent, and two new buildings at a cost of $25 000, for whites and colored, have been completed this year; the schools are managed by a board of commissioners elected by the people.

There are eleven churches, six white and five colored, of Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Catholic denominations.

The town has a complete system of artesian waterworks and an electric light plant, ice factory, planing mills, foundry, two banks, good hotels and other enterprises.

The Waycross Herald has an excellent printing establishment and issues a daily and weekly paper. Two religious papers are published here and the colored people have a weekly newspaper.

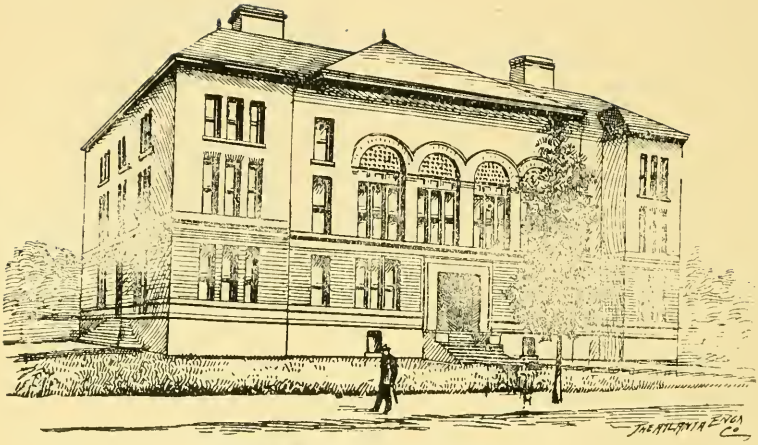
It has never, like many other places, been on a boom, but its progress has been unceasing. Many enterprises that would be profitable are yet untouched, and visitors are invited to investigate and judge for themselves the advantages of this section.



NEW BAPTIST CHURCH.

The chief charm of Waycross, however, is in its delightful homes, surrounded by beautiful gardens. Owing to our mild winters the rarest and tenderest flowers are grown in rich profusion in open gardens. The proximity of our county to the sea and gulf renders the temperature equable and far pleasanter in summer than in localities farther north.

With every advantage of soil, that yields the best return for the least labor, delightful climate, abundant water, health unsurpassed in any section in the south, schools, churches, abundant railroad facilities running in six directions through the county, the thousands of uncultivated acres lie open to the home seeker, and a cordial welcome is extended to men of industry and good character, to come among us, develope these resources and share in the results.



NEW SCHOOL BUILDING.

OUR ARTESIAN WATER—THE ANALYSIS.

Below we again publish the analysis of our Artesian Water, as also Professor White's letter to Mr. Reed in regard to the same. It is being used by a large majority of our citizens, and many claim that they have been greatly benefitted by it:

ATHENS, Ga., Nov. 25th, 1893.

H. W. Reed, Esq., Waycross, Ga.:

DEAR SIR:—I have examined a sample of Artesian Water received as per your valued favor of the 20th instant:

The water was faintly turbid from suspended silica which, hower, speedily settled on standing, and became clear and limpid. It possessed no odor and was found to be originally pure. Chemical analysis yielded the following results:

Solids dissolved.	Grains per U. S. gal.
Carbonate of lime	7 502
Carbonate of iron	0 120
Sulphate of lime	0 531
Sulphate of magnesia	0 162
Sulphate of potash	0 061
Sulphate of soda	0 084
Sodium chloride (common salt)	0 349
Silica	0 582
Organic matter, combined water	0 965
	10 356

This water contains the dissolved soils usually found in the artesian waters of Southern Georgia. It contains them, however, in rather smaller quantities than usual, and it is one of the best of such waters that I have examined It is a pure and excellent water, suitable for domestic and manufacturing purposes.

Very Truly Yours,

J. C. WHITE.

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